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6/14/76

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SCCT-01 ORM-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 /075 W

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R 161540Z JUN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES.

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6036

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USMISSION GENEVA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason ☐

BUENOS AIRES 3985

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, SREF, AR

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA

REF: (A) STATE 143914, (B) BUENOS AIRES 3960, (C) BUENOS AIRES 3918

1. PER REF A, CHARGE OBTAINED APPOINTMENT WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY PEREYRA, SENIOR FONOFF CIVILIAN, EVENING JUNE 14.

2. CHARGE EXPRESSED USG CONCERN OVER REFUGEE ABDUCTION, AND RAISED BROADER ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. TO ILLUSTRATE FOR HIM HOW FOREIGN PRESS COVERED SUCH MATTERS AND HOW CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS DEALT WITH THEM, HE WAS ALSO PROVIDED WITH COPIES OF WASHINGTON POST STORY ON ABDUCTION AND REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN KOCH AT CIAR ON JUNE 7. CHARGE ALSO TOLD HIM HE HAD RAISED MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO US, ARNALDO MUSICH. MUSICH, WHO IS ACCOMPANYING MINECON MARTINEZ DE HOZ ON US VISIT, WAS ADVISED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WOULD PROBABLY PLAY A ROLE IN CONVERSATIONS DURING VISIT.

3. PEREYRA'S RESPONSE WAS AN IMPASSIONED, ALMOST FANATIC DEFENSE OF GOA. WITH REGARD TO SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE, PEREYRA CONTENTED THAT GOA WAS DOING BEST IT COULD IN AN ALL-OUT WAR WITH

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EXTREMISTS; THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREVENT OCCASIONAL EXCESSES BY EMBATTLED SECURITY FORCES WHO SHED THEIR BLOOD DAILY, AND THAT HE AND PRESIDENT VIDELA WERE AS DEEPLY AND GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS ANY FOREIGN OBSERVER. HE DID NOT COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THE TRUTH OR FALSEHOOD OF THE ABDUCTION REPORTS.

4. WHEN HE REACHED THE TOPIC OF THE UNHCR, PEREYRA'S INDIGNATION WAS BARELY CONTROLLED. HE SAID THAT ARGENTINA HAD PROVIDED A REFUGE FOR OVER 500,000 ALIEANS SINCE 1973, MOST OF THEM CHILEANS. THE COUNTRY HAD MADE AN ENORMOUS EFFORT TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, AND THE EFFORT WAS TOTALLY UNRECOGNIZED. HE SAID THAT THE UNHCR HAD, ON ITS OWN, CHOSEN SOME OF THESE ILLEGAL ALIENS TO BE SUPPORTED IN THE STATUS OF REFUGEES AND CLAIMED THE RIGHT TO REPRESENT THEM BEFORE THE GOA. HE NOTED THAT ARGENTINA DID NOT RECOGNIZE ANY STANDING OF THE UNHCR ON BEHALF OF LATIN AMERICANS SINCE ARGENTINA HAD APPROVED IT'S ACTIVITIES WITH A HEMISPHERIC RESERVATION. HE SAID THAT THE UNHCR CLAIMED STATUS MERELY ON THE BASIS OF A UN RESOLUTION, AND ASKED IF THE US WAS PREPARED TO ABIDE BY EVERY RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE UN. HE MADE THE ANALOGY OF THE UNHCR ATTEMPTING TO REPRESENT ALL THE ILLEGAL MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE US. AS FOR HIS OWN CONCERN FOR THE ABDUCTED CHILEANS, PEREYRA STRESSED THAT HE, HIMSELF, HAD TURNED OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT ON FIRST HEARING OF THE INCIDENT AND HAD PERSONALLY ARRANGED FOR STATIONING POLICE AT 25 LODGING PLACES HOUSING CHILEAN REFUGEES.

5. IN A REVIEW OF EVENTS AT THE OASGA, PEREYRA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER HIS CONCLUSION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS REALISTIC AND UNDERSTOOD THE GOA PROBLEMS. ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE STATED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD QUOTED FROM HERODOTUS A REFERENCE TO REFUGEES TAKING OVER THE CITY THAT GAVE THEM REFUGE, AND THIS INDICATED HIS IMPLICIT AGREEMENT WITH THE GOA'S POSITION.

6. COMMENT: PEREYRA WAS NOT DISPOSED TO GIVE ONE INCH ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WHILE HE DISPLAYS ALMOST ALL ASPECTS OF THE SEIGE MENTALITY, CHARGE CREDITS HIM WITH SINCERITY IN HIS EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. IF GOA IS IN FACT UNABLE TO CONTROL SECURITY FORCES HE HAS GREAT JUSTIFICATION FOR CONCERN.

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